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**March 23, 2016**

**NEWS RELEASE**

## **EPFD responds to Condition 3 fire**

### **Firefighters respond to Condition 3 fire at 8900 block of Dirk Ct.**

*El Paso, Texas* – At approximately 4:58 p.m. on Wednesday March 23, the El Paso Fire Department was dispatched to a condition 3 fire at the 8900 block of Dirk Ct. when neighbors saw flames and smoke and called 9-1-1. Upon arriving on the scene at 5:03 p.m., crews found flames coming from the roof of one house and smoke coming from the roof of another house across the street. Firefighters began to simultaneously fight the fire and search for residents. No one was inside both homes, but three dogs were rescued.

Firefighters were able to bring one fire under control at 6:30 p.m. and contain it to 50% of the structure. Firefighters were able to bring the second fire under control at 6:52 p.m. About 90% of the structure was damaged. The damage to that home is estimated at \$300,000. The cause of both fires was electrical, due to downed power lines. Both houses had working smoke alarms.

There were no injuries to residents, but one firefighter sustained injuries. He was transported to a local hospital with non-life threatening injuries. A total of 16 units and 41 personnel from the El Paso Fire Department responded to this incident. El Paso Police, El Paso Electric, Texas Gas, El Paso Buildings and Inspections, ATF and the Red Cross assisted in the incident.

“One of the challenges of fighting fire is the electrical hazard,” said incident commander Battalion Chief Sergio Ramirez. “Having live, electrical wires throughout both structures made this operation more dangerous. We first had to mitigate the electrical hazard prior to commencing fire attack operations.”

The El Paso Fire Department would like to remind the public to never go near or touch a downed power line. Power lines are not insulated like power cords. Always assume the power line is live. Don't touch a fallen power line or anything touching the wire. Do not touch anything or anyone in contact with a fallen power line or other equipment. Keep children and pets away from fallen electric wires. Do not drive over a fallen power line. And most importantly, call 9-1-1 immediately to report a fallen power line.

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